

A photograph of Rick James standing on a city street at night. He is wearing a black leather jacket, black leather pants, and bright red knee-high boots. He is holding a white Fender Precision Bass guitar. He is leaning against a dark, ornate metal pillar. The background shows a wet street with reflections of city lights and a blurred figure of a person in a red jacket walking away. The overall mood is gritty and urban.

RICK JAMES

STREET SONGS



1. GIVE IT TO ME BABY
2. GHETTO LIFE
3. MAKE LOVE TO ME
4. MR. POLICEMAN
5. SUPER FREAK
6. FIRE AND DESIRE
7. CALL ME UP
8. BELOW THE FUNK (PASS THE J)

**BONUS TRACKS:
THE 12-INCH MIXES**

9. GIVE IT TO ME BABY
10. SUPER FREAK



A UNIVERSAL MUSIC COMPANY

www.motown.com www.universalmusic.com

UM[®] © 2002 Motown Records,
 a Division of UMG Recordings, Inc.,
 1755 Broadway, New York, NY 10019 - USA.
 Distributed by Universal Music &
 Video Distribution, Corp. Warning:
 All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication is a
 violation of applicable laws. 440 064 023-2

MOTOWN CLASSIC ALBUMS



"Jazz is the
teacher,
funk is the
preacher."

-James Blood Ulmer
Funk Guitarist and Philosopher



Original inner sleeve photo

IN THE SUMMER OF 1981, NO ONE WAS KEEPING THE FAITH WITH MORE FIRE AND FERVOR THAN RICK JAMES. INVOKING MILES DAVIS AND JOHN COLTRANE AS WELL AS JAMES BROWN AND SLY STONE, THE FIERY FUNK SERMON HE PREACHED ON *STREET SONGS* PROVIDED A FRONT LINE REPORT FROM THE BLUES-HAUNTED STREETS OF BLACK AMERICA WHILE OPENING UP A JAZZ-TINGED VISION OF A NEW AND BETTER WORLD. WHILE THE DAWN OF THE REAGAN ERA WASN'T A GREAT TIME FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSICIANS, THE RESPONSE TO *STREET SONGS* WAS OVERWHELMING. IN MARCH, JAMES HAD RELEASED "GIVE IT TO ME" AND, BY THE TIME THE SINGLE SURRENDERED THE TOP SPOT ON THE R&B CHARTS AFTER FIVE WEEKS, THE ALBUM HAD BEGUN ITS FIVE MONTH STAY AT NUMBER ONE. FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, RICK JAMES WAS ON TOP OF THE MUSICAL WORLD.

James' sense of musical possibility took root when his mother introduced him to the vibrant jazz scene of his native Buffalo. "Jazz was my first love," James said to David Ritz. "At home, Mom's jazz records played day and night. She had sophisticated taste and, without really trying, schooled me on the good stuff." Like the great jazzmen, James set out to communicate across racial and musical boundaries. When he formed the Stone City Band, he called the group's style funk 'n' roll. His horn section proudly advertised itself as the Funk Funk Horns. And even though "Super Freak" was destined to become a hip-hop standard (via Hammer's "U Can't Touch This"), the defining organ riff came straight out of Elvis Costello. The hypnotic bass riffs that drove "Ghetto Life" and "Super Freak" paid homage to Bootsy Collins, Larry Graham and Motown's immortal bassist James Jamerson, but Tom McDermott's blazing guitar riffs wouldn't have been out of place in an Allman Brothers jam.

On *Street Songs*, James brought the musical influences together with a set of songs that perfectly captured the ebb and flow of life in a rapidly changing urban America. He'd prepared himself for the album by returning to his home town after the commercial failure of his 1980 LP *Garden of Love*. "I disguised myself and went to the Perry Projects just to walk around," James once said. "That's when I knew what I needed. Reality. The street. It was a revelation." The revelations on *Street Songs* range from the funky anthems "Ghetto Life" and "Below the Funk" through the searing social commentary of "Mr. Policeman" to the silky classic "Fire and Desire," which will be with us as long as hearts and souls are adorned with skin.

James's well-publicized problems with drugs and the law would soon bring him down from the pinnacle he reached in 1981. But the music remains as fresh as ever. And Rick James has made his way back to the studio and the stage. This reissue takes you back to the source and reminds you why *Street Songs* deserves a place beside *What's Going On* and *Songs in the Key of Life* on the shelf of street-smart Motown classics.

CRAIG WERNER

1. GIVE IT TO ME BABY 4:08

Words & Music by Rick James

WHEN I CAME HOME LAST NIGHT
YOU WOULDN'T MAKE LOVE TO ME
YOU WENT FAST ASLEEP
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME
YOU SAY I'M SO CRAZY
COMIN' HOME INTOXICATED
I SAY I JUST WANNA LOVE YOU
GUESS THAT'S WHY I'M SO ELATED
COME ON GIRL
GIVE IT TO ME BABY
GIVE IT TO ME BABY
I BETCHA
I'LL MAKE YOU HOLLER 'TIL YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
GIVE IT TO ME BABY
JUST GIVE IT TO ME BABY
I BETCHA
I'LL MAKE YOU HOLLER 'TIL YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE ME THAT STUFF, THAT FUNK, THAT SWEET THAT FUNKY STUFF
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE ME THAT STUFF, THAT FUNK, THAT SWEET FUNKY STUFF
GIVE IT TO ME BABY
JUST GIVE IT TO ME BABY
GIVE IT TO ME BABY
I BETCHA
I'LL MAKE YOU HOLLER 'TIL YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE ME THAT STUFF, THAT FUNK, THAT SWEET THAT FUNKY STUFF
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE ME THAT STUFF, THAT FUNK, THAT SWEET THAT FUNKY STUFF
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE IT TO ME
GIVE ME THAT STUFF, THAT SWEET FUNKY STUFF
WHEN I WAS HIGH AS THE SKY
OUT ALL NIGHT JUST DANCING
YOU SAY LET'S GO HOME
THAT'S THE TIME I START ROMANCIN'
YOU SAY HOW CAN I LOVE YOU
WHEN YOUR BODY KEEPS ON MOVIN'
I SAY WAIT 'TIL I SQUEEZE YOU

MAYBE THEN YOU'LL START TO GROOVIN'
COME ON GIRL
GIVE IT TO ME BABY, GIVE IT TO ME BABY
I BETCHA
I'LL MAKE YOU HOLLER 'TIL YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH
ADLIB—GIVE IT TO ME
WHATCHA SAY
GIVE IT TO ME
WHATCHA SAY

© 1981 Jobete Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

2. GHETTO LIFE 4:21

Words & Music by Rick James

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY
GROWIN' UP IN THE GHETTO
HANGIN' OUT ON CORNERS
SINGIN' WITH THE FELLAS
LOOKIN' FOR THE CUTE CHICKS
TRYIN' TO FIND ME BIG FUN
LOOKIN' FOR SOME TROUBLE
FROM ANYONE WHO'D GIVE ME SOME
I WAS YOUNG & CRAZY
(IN THE GHETTO)
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MY LIFE WOULD BE
(IN THE GHETTO)
I WAS DUMB & LAZY
(IN THE GHETTO)
SOMETHING HAD A SPELL ON ME
(IN THE GHETTO)
YOU ALL KNOW WHERE I'M COMIN' FORM
GHETTO LIFE
GHETTO LIFE
GHETTO LIFE
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN
KIND OF FREE & FANCY
I MET THIS LITTLE CUTE GIRL
SHE SAID HER NAME WAS NANCY
SHE HAD PIGTAILS TO HER SHOULDERS
SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH OLDER
SHE TAUGHT ME WHAT I HAD TO KNOW
TO MAKE A GIRL NOT WANT TO GO
SHE WAS YOUNG & KINKY
(IN THE GHETTO)
SHE LET HER PIGTAILS DOWN ON ME
(IN THE GHETTO)

I WAS YOUNG & SNEAKY
(IN THE GHETTO)
HAD TO SEE WHAT LOVE COULD BE
(IN THE GHETTO)
GHETTO LIFE
GHETTO LIFE
GHETTO LIFE

BRIDGE—I KNEW IT ALL ALONG THAT MY GAME WAS STRONG
BUT I WAS WRONG THAT TIME
I KNEW I HAD TO PLAY, HAD TO GET AWAY
DIDN'T YOU THINK I WAS SMART ENOUGH
DIDN'T YOU THINK I WAS STRONG ENOUGH
DIDN'T YOU THINK I WAS MAN ENOUGH
DIDN'T YOU THINK THAT I WANT TO GET OUT
(OF THE GHETTO LIFE)
ADLIB—SING IT 'TIL YOU FEEL IT WHEN YOU SAY
GHETTO LIFE—GHETTO LIFE
GOT TO GET AN OVER, SING IT TO YOU CHILDREN
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BABY
TENEMENT SLUMS & CORNER BUMS
PLAYING TAG WITH WINOS WAS THE ONLY WAY
TO HAVE SOME FUN ONE THING 'BOUT THE GHETTO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY
IT'LL BE THERE TOMORROW
SO PEOPLE DON'T YOU WORRY
WE GOT TO START ALL OVER
(IN THE GHETTO)
GOT TO BUILD IT FROM THE GROUND
(IN THE GHETTO)
PEOPLE GOT TO COME TOGETHER
(IN THE GHETTO)
ALL THAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND
(IN THE GHETTO)
GHETTO LAND
THAT'S THE PLACE WE FUNK
THAT'S THE PLACE
WE LIKE TO FUNK

© 1981 Jobete Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

3. MAKE LOVE TO ME 4:48

Words & Music by Rick James

TASTE SO GOOD TO THE VERY LAST DROP
YOU ON BOTTOM AND ME ON TOP
ROLLIN' AROUND TO THE SAXOPHONE SOUND

FEEL SO GOOD DON'T WANNA COME DOWN
MAKE LOVE TO ME BABY
DO IT NICE AND SLOW
MAKE LOVE TO ME WOMAN
LET YOUR FEELINGS SHOW—HEY BABY
FEEL SO GOOD SOAKING WET LIKE THE RAIN
SO SOFT AND GENTLE AND WE SHOW NO SHAME
KISSING YOU BABY ONLY YOU AND I KNOW
FEEL SO GOOD JUST LET YOUR LOVE FLOW
MAKE LOVE TO ME
LET YOUR FEELINGS SHOW
FEELIN' HOT, FEELIN' COLD
FEELIN' YOUNG AND FEELIN' OLD
THAT'S WHAT I FEEL WHEN I'M HOLDING YOU TIGHTER
SQUEEZIN' YOU BABY
LOVING YOU WITH ALL MY MIGHT
ALL I'M ASKIN' IS JUST TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU
(HEY BABY HEY BABY WELL, WELL)
DON'T YOU DARE BE NERVOUS, DON'T YOU DARE BE SHY
JUST LET ME MAKE SWEET LOVE TO YOU BABY
DON'T YOU DARE BE NERVOUS, DON'T YOU DARE BE SHY
THERE'S NO NEED TO WONDER WHY
DON'T YOU DARE BE NERVOUS WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME
WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME
WILL YOU COME LIKE THE FALLIN' RAIN?
COME LIKE THE FALLIN' RAIN
COME LIKE THE FALLIN' RAIN
FEELS SO GOOD
WOMAN DO ME
WOMAN DO ME GOOD
DO ME
DO ME

© 1981 Jobete Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

4. MR. POLICEMAN 4:17

Words & Music by Rick James

HEY MR. POLICEMAN
I'VE SEEN YOU IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD
YOU LOOK TO ME UP TO NO GOOD
I'VE SEEN YOU WITH YOUR GUN IN YOUR HAND
HEY MR. POLICEMAN
I SAW YOU SHOOT MY GOOD FRIEND DOWN
HE WAS JUST HAVIN' FUN
CHECKIN' OUT A ONE & ONE
IT'S A SHAME AND DISGRACE

EVERYTIME YOU SHOW YOUR FACE
SOMEBODY DIES MAN
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
HEY MR. POLICEMAN
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE BOYS ALONE
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ROLL YOUR OWN
AND CALL ME ON THE TELEPHONE
HEY MR. POLICEMAN
I SEE YOU WALKIN' ON YOUR BEAT
SEARCHIN' STRANGERS ON THE STREET
ESPECIALLY THE WHORES YOU MEET
IT'S A SHAME SUCH A DISGRACE
EVERYTIME YOU SHOW YOUR FACE
SOMEBODY DIES MAN
SOMEBODY DIES
(POLICE MONOLOGUE) SIREN
THIS IS A CAR #54 WAIT TO CHECK OUT ETC.
HEY MR. POLICEMAN
I SAW YOU SHOOT MY GOOD FRIEND DOWN
HE WAS JUST HAVIN' FUN
CHECKIN' OUT A ONE & ONE
HEY MR. POLICEMAN
I SEE YOU NEVER HAVIN' FUN
STRAPPED TO YOUR SIDE A GUN
.357 SMITH MAGNUM
IT'S A SHAME & DISGRACE
EVERYTIME YOU SHOW YOUR FACE
SOMEBODY DIES MAN
I'D RATHER BE A FARMER THAN TO BE A POLICE
I'D RATHER BE A SINGER THAN TO BE A POLICE
I'D RATHER BE A FATHER THAN TO BE A POLICE

© 1981 JOBETE Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

5. SUPER FREAK 3:24

Words & Music by Rick James and Alonzo Miller

SHE'S A VERY KINKY GIRL
THE KIND YOU WON'T TAKE HOME TO MOTHER
AND SHE'LL NEVER LET YOUR SPIRITS DOWN
ONCE YOU GET HER OFF THE STREETS
SHE LIKES THE BOYS IN THE BAND
SHE SAYS THAT I'M HER ALL TIME FAVORITE
WHEN I MAKE MY MOVE TO HER ROOM IT'S THE RIGHT TIME
I'M NEVER HARD TO PLEASE
THAT GIRL IS PRETTY WILD NOW
THE GIRL'S A SUPER FREAK

THE KIND OF GIRL YOU READ ABOUT
IN NEW WAVE MAGAZINES
THE GIRL'S A SUPER FREAK
I KIND OF WANT TO TASTE HER
EVERYTIME WE MEET
YOU KNOW SHE'S ALRIGHT, SHE'S ALRIGHT
SHE'S ALRIGHT WITH ME
SHE'S A SUPER FREAK, SUPER FREAK
SHE'S SUPER FREAKY, YEAH
SHE'S A VERY SPECIAL GIRL
FROM HER HEAD DOWN TO HER TOENAILS
AND SHE'LL WAIT FOR ME AT BACKSTAGE WITH HER GIRLFRIENDS
IN A LIMOUSINE
THREE'S NOT A CROWN TO HER SHE SAID
ROOM 714 I'LL BE WAITING
WHEN I GET THERE SHE'S GOT INCENSE, WINE AND CANDLES
SUCH A FREAKY SCENE
THAT GIRL IS PRETTY WILD NOW
THAT GIRL'S A SUPER FREAK
THE KIND OF GIRL YOU READ ABOUT
IN NEW WAVE MAGAZINES
THE GIRLS IS PRETTY KINKY
THAT GIRL'S A SUPER FREAK
I KIND OF WANT TO TASTE HER
EVERYTIME WE MEET
YOU KNOW SHE'S ALRIGHT, SHE'S ALRIGHT
SHE'S ALRIGHT WITH ME
SHE'S A SUPER FREAK, SUPER FREAK
SHE'S SUPER FREAKY, YEAH

© 1981 JOBETE Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP) AND STONE DIAMOND MUSIC CORP. (BMI)
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

6. FIRE AND DESIRE 7:17

Words & Music by Rick James

(MONOLOGUE)
WOW IT'S REALLY GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BABY
I MUST ADMIT YOU'RE LOOKING VERY VERY NICE THESE DAYS
I GUESS LIFE MUST BE TREATING YOU WELL
OH, ME? WELL I'VE JUST BEEN DOING THE SAME OL' THING
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DOING
I'VE GOT A NEW LADY NOW, IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS
WHEN I WAS WITH YOU
I THINK I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP
YOU KNOW I THINK BACK TO WHEN WE MET
THE WAY I USED TO BE THE COLD WAY I USED TO ACT

BUT MORE THAN THAT I THINK OF HOW YOU'VE CHANGED ME WITH
YOUR SENSITIVITY
REMEMBER WHEN I USED TO . . .
LOVE THEM & LEAVE THEM
THAT'S WHAT I USED TO DO, USE & ABUSE THEM
'TIL I LAID EYES ON YOU
IT WAS PAIN AFTER PLEASURE
THAT WAS MY CLAIM TO FAME
WITH EVERY MEASURE
TASTED TEARDROP STAIN YEAH
I WAS COOL AS ICE LONG AGO BABY
I WASN'T VERY NICE DON'T YOU KNOW, SUGAR
THEN I KISSED YOUR LIPS
AND YOU TURNED ON MY FIRE
AND BURNED ME UP WITHIN YOUR FLAME
TOOK ME A LITTLE HIGH MADE ME LIVE AGAIN
YOU TURNED ON MY FIRE, BABY
AND YOU SHOW ME WHAT A LOVE COULD DO
FIRE & DESIRE GOT ME HOOKED ON YOU
AND I THANK YOU BABY

(MONOLOGUE)

OH HOW I THANK YOU
YOU TAUGHT ME SO MUCH AND SHOWED ME
LOVE & SENSITIVITY
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE
I DON'T THINK I'VE FELT THIS WAY BEFORE
IT'S FUNNY HOW A MAN CAN CHANGE SO QUICKLY
FROM A COLD-BLOODED PERSON
THINK HE'S GOD'S GIFT TO WOMEN
REMEMBER HOW I USED TO DO THAT, HA
I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY THEN
REMEMBER THE TIME I USED TO . . .
LOVE THEM & LEAVE THEM . . . (1ST VERSE)

(MONOLOGUE)

OH MAYBE I'VE SAID TOO MUCH
AFTER ALL YOU'RE KIND OF WITH SOMEBODY
& I'M KIND OF LIVING WITH SOMEBODY
BUT PLEASE JUST BEFORE YOU GO DO ME ONE

LAST FAVOR

JUST PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME,
HOLD ME LIKE YOU USED TO
AND TELL ME EVERYTHING GONNA BE ALRIGHT

© 1981 JOBETE Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

7. CALL ME UP 3:53

Words & Music by Rick James

LOVE ME TENDER BABY
I DON'T LIKE NO PAIN (I DON'T LIKE NO PAIN)
MAKE ME SURRENDER SUGAR
WHEN YOU CALL MY NAME (MY NAME IS RICK)
ROCK ME ROLL ME
BABY DON'T YOU STOP (DON'T YOU EVER STOP)
WAKE ME SHAKE ME
WHEN YOUR LOVE GETS HOT
I CAN FEEL YOUR BODY BURNING TO MY FLESH
LIKE FIRE, HOT FIRE
BABY YOU CAN CALL ME UP (YOU KNOW MY NUMBER)
HEY BABY YOU CAN CALL ME UP
CALL ME UP
TOUCH ME PLACES BABY
I'VE NEVER BEEN TOUCHED BEFORE (YOU CAN DO IT BABY)
KISS ME IN SPACES MAKE ME HOLLER OUT FOR MORE
GIVE MORE & MORE
GIVE ME PLEASURE BABY
GIVE ME EVERY BIT YOU GOT (GIVE IT TO ME BABY)
MAKE ME FEEL BETTER BY TELLING ME
YOU'LL NEVER STOP (SAY YOU'LL NEVER STOP)
I CAN FEEL YOUR BODY BURNIN' TO MY FLESH
LIKE FIRE HOT FIRE
(REPEAT 1ST AND 2ND VERSES)
BABY WHEN YOU WANT A HAND TO HOLD
WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE JUST GOTTA CALL ME UP
BABY WHEN YOU DO IT ALL NIGHT
WHEN YOU WANT TO GET IT RIGHT
JUST GOTTA CALL ME UP
BABY WHEN YOU WANT MY LOVIN' AROUND
AND WHEN YOU WANT TO GET ON DOWN
JUST GOTTA CALL ME UP
BABY WHEN YOU WANT TO DO IT ALL NIGHT
WHEN YOU WANT TO GET IT RIGHT
JUST GOTTA CALL ME UP

© 1981 JOBETE Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

8. BELOW THE FUNK (PASS THE J) 2:35

Words & Music by Rick James

I WAS BORN IN A CITY WE CALL BUFFALO
ZERO DEGREES BELOW IS TOO DAMN COLD AND FUNKY
MAMA RAISED ME ON THE NUMBERS RACKET
WITH EIGHT KIDS AND NO FATHER
SAID SHE COULDN'T HACK IT
ON THE EASTSIDE WHERE I STARTED
SINGIN' ON THE CORNERS
HANGIN' OUT WITH ALL THE HOODLUMS
PASS THE JOINT
NOW THE LOVE I FIND IN THE CITY
IS SUCH A CRYIN' PITY
AIN'T NO LOVE FOR BROTHERS
PASS THE JOINT
I THINK I WANT TO TALK
'BOUT THE PLACE I WAS BORN, I WAS TORN
SAID PASS THE JOINT
GIVE ME ONE MO' HIT
I AIN'T FINISHED WITH IT
I GOT SOME MORE TO SAY
NOW THE PLAYERS HANGIN' 'ROUND THE MAIN STRIP
ACTIN' LIKE THEY'RE ON A TRIP
IF THEY HAD MY CASH THEY COULD BE HIP
BUT IT'S STRANGE THE GOSSIP IS SO TRAGIC
THEY CALL ME A FAGGOT
ME AND ALL MY WOMEN LAUGH AT IT
LOVE I GOT MY GOOD FRIENDS THERE
THEY REALLY KEEP ME DANCIN'
THEY REALLY KEEP ME LAUGHIN'
IN THE COUNTRY ME, MY DOG AND HORSES
HANGIN' OUT WITH MY FAMILY TALKIN'
'BOUT STONE CITY
PASS THE JOINT
I WANNA TALK 'BOUT THE CITY I WAS BORN
I THINK I WANNA TALK 'BOUT THE PLACE WHERE I WAS TORN
SAID PASS THE JOINT
I NEED ONE MO' HIT
I AIN'T FINISHED WITH IT
I GOT SOME MORE TO SAY
'BOUT THE CITY I WAS BORN
I GOT TO TALK
I WISH THEY WOULDN'T BE SO TORN
I WANNA TALK 'BOUT THE CITY I WAS BRED
I NEED TO TALK 'BOUT THE CITY THAT HAS LED ME TO MY THANG
I WAS BORN IN A CITY WE CALL BUFFALO
ZERO DEGREES BELOW IS TOO DAMN COLD AND FUNKY

I THINK I WANNA TALK ABOUT IT
OOH PASS THE JOINT
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
I THINK I WANNA SING ABOUT IT
PASS THE JOINT
THANK YOU

© 1981 Jobete Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP). ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT SECURED. USED BY PERMISSION.

STREET SONGS (a rhyme)

ON THE STREET WHERE GAME IS BEAST
WHERE BEAUTY TRICKS ON THE CORNER EAST
WHILE JUNKIES LAY FOR THE MORNING DUE
AND WINOS STUMBLE FROM TOO MUCH BREW
WHERE HEARTBROKEN WOMEN MEET HEARTBROKEN MEN
JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING UNBROKEN TO MEND
AND THE POETS SAID FEEL IT
AND WRITE IT ALL DOWN
BUT THE PENCIL AND PAPER JUST CAN'T MAKE THE SOUND
AND THE PROPHET SAID WHAT WILL YOU WRITE OF THE STREET
AND THE POET SAID I WILL WRITE MUSIC FOR FEET
AND THE PROPHET SAID ONLY FOR FEET
WHAT FOR THE MIND
THEN THE POET WAS SILENT FOR JUST A SHORT TIME
THEN BROKE OUT IN LAUGHTER AND SPOKE THIS IN RHYME
I AM THE POET THAT COMES FROM THE STREET
AND THE MUSIC I WRITE SHALL BE MUSIC FOR FEET
THE WORDS THAT I SING I WILL SING TO THE MIND
AND LOCK THEM TOGETHER IN THE HEART FOR ALL TIME
THE PROPHET THEN SMILED AND SAID GO SPREAD YOUR WORD
SING IT LOUD ON THE STREET AND YOUR SONG WILL BE HEARD!

STREET SONGS,
by Rick James

Personnel:

Rick James/Lead Vocals, Guitar, Bass, Percussion, Drums, Timbales & Tympani, Cover Concept

Stone City Band:

Levi Ruffin, Jr./String Ensemble, OBX Synthesizer, Background Vocals

Tom McDermott/Guitar, Percussion

Erskine Williams/Keyboards, Clavinet, Hammond B3

Oscar Alston/Bass, Percussion

Janise Hughes/Drums

Punk Funk Horns:

Daniel LeMelle/Flute, Alto & Tenor Saxophone

Cliff Ervin/Trumpet, Piccolo, Flugelhorn

John Ervin/Trombone, Flute

Gerald Albright/Tenor flute on FIRE AND DESIRE, MAKE LOVE TO ME

Additional Musicians:

Violin/Larry Hansen on GHETTO LIFE

Trumpet/Roy Poper, Fernando Harkless

Vibes/Donny Keider

Drums/Steve Price, Narada Michael Walden on MAKE LOVE TO ME

Percussion/Nate Hughes, Bugsy Wilcox, Armando Peraza, Raul Rekow

Harmonica on Mr. POLICEMAN/Steve Wonder

Singers: Teena Marie on GIVE IT TO ME BABY, MR. POLICEMAN & FIRE AND DESIRE, The Temptations (Melvin Franklin, Otis

Williams & Richard Street) on GHETTO LIFE & SUPER FREAK, Melvin Franklin on GIVE IT TO ME BABY, Lawrence Hilton

Jacobs, Jane't DuBois, Pattie Brooks, Maxine Waters Willard, Julia Waters Tillman, Marci Thomas, Jackie Ruffin, Rick

James, Levi Ruffin, Jr. & The Mary Jane Band (Lisa Sama & JoAnne McDuffie).

Handclaps: Levi Ruffin, Jr., Daniel LeMelle, California St. Clair, Lisa Sama, Aaron Dublin, Oscar Alston, Victor Reed & Teena Marie

String Session Concertmaster/Charles Veal, Jr.

String Contractor/Rollace Dale

String Arrangements/Reggie Andrews, Rick James & Daniel LeMelle

Horn Arrangements/Rick James & Daniel LeMelle

Recorded at The Record Plant, Sausalito, California & Motown/Hitsville U.S.A. Recording Studios,

Hollywood California, December 1980-January 1981

Recording Engineers/Tom "Super" Flye, Rick "Port Hole" Sanchez & Bobby Brooks

Assistant Engineers/Michael Johnson & Tony Autore

Mixed Down at West Lake Audio, Los Angeles, California

Mixing Engineers/Tom "Super" Flye & Bobby Brooks

Executive Producer: Alonzo Miller on MAKE LOVE TO ME, SUPER FREAK and FIRE AND DESIRE

Original LP Art Direction/Johnny Lee

Design/Ginny Livingston

Logo Design/Norman Moore

Photography/Ron Slenzak



Thanks to Steve Price, courtesy of A&M Records, Inc., Narada Michael Walden, courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp., Armando Peraza & Raul Rekow, and Maxine Waters Willard & Julia Waters Tillman, courtesy of Arista Records. We love you Jane't DuBois (Good Times) and Lawrence Hilton Jacobs aka Freddie "Boom Boom" Washington (Welcome Back Kotter).

Special thanks to the following: God Almighty for his inspiration and love and for protecting and guiding me every move, my mother Betty for her love and groove, Buffalo, New York...my home in the snow, Stone City Band, Mary Jane Band and Punk Funk Horns for letting me know Teena Marie, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Patti LaBelle, Maxine Waters Willard & Julia Waters Tillman, Lawrence Hilton Jacobs, Jane't DuBois, Alonzo Miller, Jimmy & Aada, Baby Shark, my staff (Ann, Donna, Big M, Aaron Dublin, California, Victor Reed, Grasshopper & John Seducos), The Budweiser People, Taylor & Patricia, Pete Wheatstraw, The Record Plant, Ronald White, Motown Records, Iris Gordy, Linda S., Joe Jackson, My dog Thumper, My brother Head & Family, Carmen, Camillo, Cheryl, Birdie, Roy & Brenda, Penny, John Opat, Pete Kelly, My family...I love you all Bobby Brooks, Robin (Mark) Williams your friendship and laughter has brought me joy, Teddy Pendergrass, and all the friends I haven't met, I love you! On the street we shall meet.

Rick James

*This record may be hazardous to your feet

#1-R released as Gordy G8-1002M1, April 7, 1981 / Debuted Billboard album charts May 2, 1981

#1 R&B (20 weeks, June-October 1981) / #3 Pop

SINGLE RELEASES:

Give It To Me Baby / Don't Give Up On Love (from Garden Of Love), Gordy 7197, March 6, 1981
#1 R&B (5 weeks) / #40 Pop

Super Freak (Part 1) / Super Freak (Part 2), Gordy 7205, July 10, 1981
#3 R&B / #16 Pop

Ghetto Life / Below The Funk (Pass The J), Gordy 7215, October 9, 1981
#38 R&B / #102 Pop

BONUS TRACKS: THE 12-INCH MIXES

9. GIVE IT TO ME BABY 5:42

Issued as 12-inch single, Motown M 35001, July 22, 1981

Rhythm Arrangement by Rick James

Horn Arrangement by Rick James & Daniel LeMelle

10. SUPER FREAK 7:05

Words & Music by Rick James and Alonzo Miller

Issued as 12-inch single, Motown M 35002, October 19, 1981

ALL SONGS WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND ARRANGED BY RICK JAMES
except as noted

This reissue Supervised by **Harry Weinger**

Original LP and 12-Inch Mixes Digitally Mastered
from the original flat two-track analog master tapes
by **Suha Gur** at Universal Mastering Studios-East

Art Direction: **Vartan**

Design: **Mathieu Bitton**

Photo Coordination: **Ryan Null**

Photos: **Ron Slenzak**/
Courtesy of Motown Records Archives

Production Coordination: **Monique McGuffin**

Billboard chart numbers courtesy of BPI Communications Inc.,

New York, NY, and Joel Whitburn's Record Research Inc.,

Menomonee Falls, WI.

ALSO AVAILABLE BY RICK JAMES:

Street Songs: Deluxe Edition

(440 014 696-2)

Anthology (2 CDs)

(440 014 483-2)

Ultimate Collection

(314 530 559-2)

20th Century Masters Millennium

(012 153 740-2)



© 2002 Motown Records,
a Division of UMG Recordings, Inc.
440 064 023-2





RICK JAMES

STREET SONGS



©© 2002 Motown Records,
a Division of UMG Recordings Inc.
440 064 023-2

